



OUTLOOKS OF SIR ASHUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAY ON THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay is the most respected name in Bengal and Indian Education system. His contribution to the spread of higher Education and Secondary Education in the country is unrivaled. The Bengali nation will always remember Ashutosh for his steadfastness in protesting against the government's intervention in the university. Ashutosh built a Firm of Higher Education at Calcutta University with his Progressive Vision, Skills, Administrative abilities, and Hard Work. Ashutosh has the unique credit of building an educational institution for the university. Ashutosh has also been remembered for establishing law colleges and science colleges. He brought together talented scientists at the University of Calcutta and emphasized science education. Apart from Bengali, he also taught Hindi, Oriya, Malayalam, Parli, Kannada, Urdu, and other languages at Calcutta University. He established the Calcutta University Printing Press and Research Centre. He tried to reduce government control over the University of Calcutta. On other hand, it is believed that he sowed the seeds of freedom through this attitude.

KEYWORDS: *Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay*, Calcutta University, Educationist, Calcutta high Court.

INTRODUCTION:

Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was a man of rare personality with real intelligence. He had a strange ability to recognize the talents of others. There was no orthodoxy in his personal life. Despite the strong opposition of the then British power, he influenced the Bengali education thought in the national sector. He brought about a radical change in education at Calcutta University. He wanted to introduce the education system of subservient India in a separate style without influencing the colonial style as well as a radical change in the society and culture of Bengal that began in the 19th century. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay's vision has emphasized the kind of education that young people would be learned. He established several new academic undergraduate programs under the Calcutta University. Such as comparative literature, anthropology, application psychology, art, chemistry, ancient Indian history, Hindu culture, Islamic culture, etc. He arranged for postgraduate education and research in Bengali, Hindi, Pali, and Sanskrit. All Scholars from all over India, irrespective of race, caste and gender, had the opportunity to study here. He was encouraged European scholars for teaching work in that university. Acharya Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was an ardent Bengali teacher, Writer, novelist, Sociologist, lawyer, barrister and Mathematician. He is perhaps the strongest figure in Indian education. He was a man of great personality, high esteem, courage and strong administrative skills. He was often referred to as the Tiger of Bengal for his high self-esteem, courage, academic integrity and general bizarre attitude towards the British government. He was an authentic Bengali man. He asserts to know his own identity. He did not care about the opinion of any people in the world about his personality. Ashutosh taught the British Government how to maintain the rules and regulations without directly engaging in politics during the political unrest. He was a patron of Western education culture through Eastern ideology. He developed Western education with a generous mind and he was able to carry out various reforms for the people of the country and Bengal even in the subservient era. He was a vegetarian. Sandesh and raw Rasogolla were on his list of favorite foods. He never took anything from anyone but he would have been happier if someone had brought Rasogolla. The doors of his house were open to all. Every morning many people used to come out to him with various petitions. He was disciplined enough. After waking up at 4 am and doing his work for a while, he would go out for a morning walk on the field.

He was a very kind man. When he heard that someone was in trouble, he would try to stand by his side as sympathetically as possible. Another quality of his ideas was that he was self-accomplished. He never had a submissive attitude in his actions and thoughts.

PERSONAL PROFILE:

Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay, a renowned educationist and social worker, was born on 29th June 1864 in Boubazar Palli, Calcutta. His father's name was Ganga Prasad Mukhopadhyay. His father was a famous doctor and his mother Jagattarini was an ideal Indian woman. After the birth of Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay, his father Ganga Prasad moved to Bhabanipur with the whole family. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay's childhood education began at Chakraberia Pathshala in Bhabanipur. He was an exceptionally gifted and eloquent student. Once he heard something complicated, he could remember it exactly. From an early age, he could easily solve difficult mathematical problems. He loved to study day and night, to do the math. There is an incident of Ashutosh

Mukhopadhyay's childhood in 1875, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar gave a book called 'Robinson Crusoe' to a boy standing in front of a bookstore and said to read the book carefully. From then on, the boy fell in love with books like Vidyasagar and he remained like this till the last day of his life. Growing up, the boy collected about 50,000 books in his library. That little boy of that day was Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay. Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay's goal was to become the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. In 1879 he passed the entrance examination from Calcutta University and secured second place. Then he graduated with a degree from Presidency College in 1884 and a master's degree in mathematics in 1885. The next year he earned a master's degree in physics. He received the 'Ishan Scholarship' in 1884 and the 'Premchand Raichand' Scholarship in 1886 for his outstanding achievements in studies. He obtained his LLB degree in 1888 and pursued a career in law. In addition to his legal career, he continued his academic studies. Between 1880 and 1890 he published numerous articles on mathematics in various journals. In 1894 he graduated with a degree in Law. From 1899 to 1903 he was a member of the Lieutenant Governor's Council of Bengal as a representative of Calcutta University. In 1902 he was appointed Commissioner of Calcutta University. In 1904 he became the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. On 31 March 1906, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. He held this position until March 30, 1914. Many changes have taken place since Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay became the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Although Calcutta University was established in 1857, there were no classes and no master's degree classes until 1906. At that time only master's classes were taught in different colleges. At that time, the job of the university was to collect the monthly salary and examination fees of the students of the affiliated colleges or to prepare question papers and done ancillary work. But when Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay came, he first started the master class in the university and to pick up the master class from all the colleges. As a result, the teachers of the college started opposing him, but there was no opposition to the argument of this man of extraordinary eloquence. Then the viceroy himself supported him. As a result, there was no problem to study for a master's degree in the university. He created a new syllabus and whose request, Shri Dinesh Chandra Sen wrote the history of Bengali literature. Besides, scholars from different parts of the country came to Calcutta to teach in the university. Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was a compassionate student. He also set up new departments for arts and sciences on College Street and Rajabazar campuses. Here, he appointed many famous foreign and Indian educationists as professors. In 1902 he founded Calcutta Mathematics. On 4 April 1921, Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was re-appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. He faithfully performed this duty till 1923. Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was a man of rare personality with a real intellect and he had a strange ability to know others. In 1923 he retired from the Calcutta High Court and Calcutta University and he died on 25 May 1924 in Patna, India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the Personal Profile of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay.
2. To observe the educational activities of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Is there any contribution of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay in the field of education?

METHODOLOGY:

That is a Historical Study. For the collection data, researchers used Primary and Secondary sources in the present historical study. Secondary sources are more used than Primary sources in this study. For this study, researchers have been used various books, articles, and Ph.D. thesis. Naturally qualitative data has been used in this study. So, the study is also qualitative.

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION:**Establishment of Law College:**

An unforgettable contribution of Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was the establishment of University Law College in 1909. The University established the College of Law for the smooth running of law education. This law college contributed a lot to the renaissance of the twentieth century. 'Hundred years of CU' has been told- "The University Law College has been during its experience for nearly half a century, the nursery of leaders of the bar and the Judiciary of these provinces including the High court". Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Independent India, was a student of this Law College and later taught for some time. This law college was a blessing for the university. Several lakhs of rupees have come in the narrow fund of the university during his tenure.

Establishment of Science College:

Another unforgettable contribution of Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay is the establishment of Science College. He was particularly aware of the need for science education and research for the betterment of India. The establishment of the Science College was made possible by the generous donations of Taraknath Palit and Rashbehari Ghosh for the need for higher science education and research. Here Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay gathered the best scientists of India. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay is credited with making Calcutta University an internationally renowned science education center.

Organization various Indian Language Study at Calcutta University:

Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay arranged for the study of various Indian languages, especially the Bengali language and literature, at Calcutta University. The system of teaching Bengali from entry-level to postgraduate level is an important step in the development of the Bengali language and literature. The first honour reading in Bengali was arranged. Then arrangements were made to teach the Bengali language and literature at the postgraduate level. He arranged for the teaching of Bengali in the post-graduate classes and paved the way for the development of the Bengali language and literature. Apart from Bengali, Hindi, Maithili, Oriya, Assamese, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Sinhala, etc. are also taught. He was particularly aware of the need for science education and research for the betterment of India.

Opinion about Research:

There was no provision for research before him, not even in the Senate. Higher education is not complete without research. So Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay felt the importance of research as an essential part of higher education. According to him, the success of the university lies in arousing research instincts in the students and giving them support in that regard.

Calcutta University and Ashutosh:

Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay has clearly stated that about the goal of the university. The university will be a kind of storehouse of knowledge, an influential controller of the educational mind, a huge shrine, a huge laboratory for making people think and work. He also said that the university aims to preserve knowledge, apply knowledge and above all to create knowledge creator

Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay was the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University from 1906 to 1914 and from 1921 to 1923. Education-related work that he undertook during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor at Calcutta University

1. To set up a university library at Darbhanga Hall.
2. In 1908, The University established its Printing Press.
3. Inclusion of various colleges under Calcutta University.
4. Ensuring teaching and learning up to the post-graduate level in the university.
5. He established Science and Technical College for the spread of science and technical education.
6. To create and appoint the posts of Professor, Reader Lecturer, etc. for the full time of the University.

Organization of various Subject faculties at Calcutta University:

He invited talented people from different provinces of India and foreigners to teach at Calcutta University. Responding to his call, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, P.C Mitra, C.V Raman, Dr. Ganesh Prasad and Shankar Agharkar joined the lecture. He also sought to make teaching more attractive by creating the position of Minto Professor of Economics and Hardinge Professor of Mathematics. After all, he created a total of 20 several faculty positions. He arranged for the reading of many subjects in the art department. Notable among them are Philosophy, Eth-

ics, History, Geology, Economics, Politics, Commerce, Mathematics, Economics, Physiology, Anthropology, etc., and arranged for the Department of Science to teach chemistry, physics, advanced mathematics, gynecology, etc.

Some of the more notable aspects of his faculty are such as Maulavi of Islam, Fungi Buddha, Hindu Bhattacharya and Christian clergy are all cordially invited to Calcutta University. He invited the whole world for teaching in his great shrine. So it can be said that the representatives of this university from all over the world came together and created a grand gathering.

Ashutosh as Student Compassion:

Ashutosh was a friend of students and also very kind to the students. Ashutosh was Vice-Chancellor as well as a teacher at Calcutta University and his friendliness attitude was found to the student. His statement about the test questions was that don't make the students in the test dizzy by any extra complex problem. At that time, it was very applicable. He told the professors that the examination question papers were not a place for the professors to show their knowledge. He said that the examination question papers should be prepared to keep in mind the students of medium standard. Again, for the students to get good marks in the exams, he said that if the writing is flawless, then why cut their marks to get the full marks. This friendliness attitude of Ashutosh caused a storm of criticism at that time but he was unwavering. These statements of Ashutosh to students are still noteworthy today. He did not compromise with the quality of education in making education affordable. Ashutosh has endured a lot of these criticisms. Because he knew that it was for Bengali parents and guardians to pray for their children's education. That is why he was kind and sympathetic towards the students. Ashutosh was a student but in no case did he allow the students to violate the limits of his justice. In other words, there was no shortage of her kind of students.

School-college Improvement:

Ashutosh was the first to realize that university improvement is not possible without school and college improvement. Lord Curzon's condemnation of the university law while the whole country is vocal and Curzon's 'education policy' is criticized by national leaders. It was then that Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay took over as Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University at Curzon's invitation. The report of the University Commission appointed during the time of Lord Curzon proposed to give the power of the university to directly supervise school-colleges. Many people did not accept that. Ashutosh agreed to take charge of enforcing a law. As a result, the leaders of the national education movement sharply criticized him. But in the workplace, Ashutosh tried to use Lord Curzon's law for the good of the country. He has generously approved secondary schools and colleges as well as taking a liberal and humane approach to the examination systems. As a result, his outstanding contribution to the spread of secondary and higher education is important by his liberal education policy. At that time Calcutta University was under Bengal-Bihar-Orissa, Assam and some parts of Burma. Many schools and colleges were built here and there in this area.

He felt the need to take proper care of the internal condition and management of schools and colleges. Earlier, there was no regular inspection in educational institutions. He says that extracting sapping from the soil bottom increases the vitality of the tree and refreshes the tree. In the same way, if the schools and colleges are well-organized and well-run, the education system will be developed flawlessly. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the students from the beginning of the provision of mental and physical excellence. Otherwise, students will not be able to receive a university education, be alive, and be complete. As a result of this effort, the schools and colleges of Bengal were revived. Inspired by this new ideology, a radical change took place in the education system of the country. It was the revolution in education that day.

Art Education:

Ashutosh gave enough importance to art education. He had a keen interest in painting. He incorporated painting into art education so that he first started painting at Calcutta University. Mathematician Ashutosh had forwarded to art education. He wanted to give a place to Aesthetic in education as well as he had a deep passion for immortal music. He also wanted to give music a place in the university. But his hopes were not fulfilled.

CONCLUSION:

Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee is the most respected and well-known name in the field of Bengali and Indian education. His contribution to the expansion of higher education and secondary education in the country is unprecedented. The Bengali nation will always remember Ashutosh for his unwavering determination to protest against the government's intervention in the university. Ashutosh laid a solid foundation in the higher education of Calcutta University through his progressive outlook, hard work and relevant skills which the government-backed Vice-Chancellor's team can't even think of today. He thwarted Curzon's mischief and used the infamous University Act (1904) for the good of the country. With the generous approval of secondary schools and colleges and the adoption of a liberal humanitarian approach to examinations, the spread of secondary and higher education is outstanding. Ashutosh is credited with building the university as an educational institution. Today, Indian universities are dire in need of government assistance from all quarters. So that, government control over universities is found to be seen. The British government was always trying to increase control

over the exchange of financial aid to the universities. The fighting form of Ashutosh over that system makes us wonder today. Ashutosh's protest against the government's interference for the independence of the university, today cannot even think. Ashutosh would have been encouraged by the college principals and university vice-chancellors revolving around the current narrow party politics. If the present university authorities follow Ashutosh's example, they can free the universities from government control, can focus on the production of higher education and can establish independence or self-rights. Then Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay's relevance can become alive.

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